

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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S-E-C-R-E-T

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY USSR (Baltic)

REPORT

SUBJECT Naval Vessel Sightings and Other Observations at Riga, Ventspils, and Klaipeda : DATE DISTR. 25 JAN 1960

NO. PAGES

2

50X1-HUM

REFERENCES

DATE OF INFO.

PLACE & DATE ACC

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

The following reports of observations at Riga, Ventspils, and Klaipeda:

Att. No. Subject

50X1-HUM

1 A two-page report on naval vessel sightings and other observations made at Riga including: possible Soviet minesweepers; three MVD vessels and thirty to forty landing craft or motor torpedo boats covered with tarpaulins and resting atop small trucks southeast of the Winter Harbor. 50X1-HUM

2 A one-page report on naval vessel sightings at Ventspils on including: 11 KRONSTADT-class subchasers, 13 other minesweepers including one T-43-class fleet minesweeper; one RIGA-class escort vessel; and a landing craft. 50X1-HUM

3 A brief half-page report on the projected oil harbor at Ventspils, containing the comments of a Latvian pilot that the Outer Harbor would be dredged to a depth of 12 meters, that four oil piers would be built over the next seven years, and that the annual oil capacity (sic, possibly referring to the total annual turnover of the port) would be nine million tons. the harbor was to be dredged to a depth of ten meters and that refueling (sic) would take place at sea. 50X1-HUM

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50X1-HUM

STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	#X	AIR	X	NSA	X	FBI		NIC	X		
(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#").															

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Att. No. Subject

4. A two-page report on naval vessel sightings and other observations at Ventspils [redacted] including: six SASHA-class minesweepers, [redacted]; one [redacted] 50X1-HUM
RIGA-class escort vessel, [redacted]; thirteen KRONSHADT-class submarine chasers, [redacted]
[redacted] two T-43-class minesweepers, [redacted]; 50X1-HUM
auxiliary vessel. [redacted]; a possible RIGA-class escort vessel, [redacted] dredging activity in the Outer Harbor; and 20 to 25 military vehicles, including tanks, on the southern bank of the harbor.
5. A two-page report on naval sightings and harbor construction at Ventspils [redacted] including: three SASHA-class minesweepers, [redacted]; a T-43-class minesweeper, [redacted]; two probable T-43-class minesweepers, [redacted]; a probable W-class submarine, [redacted]; a KRONSHADT-class submarine chaser, [redacted], and a [redacted] 50X1-HUM
probable KRONSHADT-class submarine chaser, [redacted]; and dredging underway in the Outer Harbor. Sketches of the submarine and a sketch map locating the dredging operations are attached.
6. A one-page report of naval vessel sightings and living costs at Klaipeda and vicinity based on observations [redacted] 50X1-HUM
[redacted] including four submarines, [redacted] a RIGA-class escort vessel; and a target vessel, [redacted]. A one-room apartment rented for 75 rubles per month, and food items sold for the following prices: sugar, 13 rubles per kilogram; coffee, 100 rubles per kilogram; the cheapest vodka, 28 rubles per bottle; and butter, 31 rubles per kilogram. 50X1-HUM
7. A five-page report on naval vessel sightings at Ventspils and vessel inspection procedures at Ventspils and Klaipeda, based on observations [redacted] Vessel 50X1-HUM
sightings at Ventspils include: 11 KRONSHADT-class submarine chasers, [redacted]
[redacted] four unidentified minesweepers; a T-43-class minesweeper, [redacted]; a minesweeper. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
a MP-8-class landing ship medium, [redacted] (sketch included); a possible W-class submarine, [redacted]; an apparently old destroyer without armament, which was being towed into the harbor; twenty tracked vehicles and some trucks on the Export Quay in boxes marked "Mexico" and "BRT 6"; 14 upright and six horizontal oil tanks at the oil storage facility.¹ The report notes that the inspection procedures at both Ventspils and Klaipeda were quickly accomplished, that there was no search of the vessel and that passports and discharge books were not checked. [redacted] 50X1-HUM

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50X1-HUM

COUNTRY USSR (Latvian SSR)

REPORT

SUBJECT Ship Sightings and Other
Observations in Riga

DATE OF REPORT 6 November 1959

NO. OF PAGES 2

50X1-HUM

REFERENCES

DATE OF
INFO.PLACE &
DATE ACC

50X1-HUM

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE. NOTE FOREGOING EXPLANATION.

1. The Soviet naval vessel, [redacted] was observed off Riga [redacted]. A little later three vessels of the [redacted] were also observed. Through the mist, the vessels appeared to be minesweepers. Their flags were not observed. 50X1-HUM
2. [redacted] three vessels, [redacted] were observed leaving Riga harbor. The vessels had torpedoes on deck [redacted] 50X1-HUM
3. Thirty to 40 vessels about 30 meters long and covered with tarpaulins or boards were sitting on small trucks southeast of the Winter Harbor in Daugavgriva [redacted] The vessels were believed to be landing craft. 50X1-HUM
4. A mast about 15 meters high with an ordinary radar screen on top was observed at the end of the west breakwater at the entrance channel to Riga [redacted] 50X1-HUM
5. The inspection of a vessel on both arrival at and departure from Riga [redacted] took only half an hour. The special shore pass usually made out for all members of the crew was not necessary for the master. He was told that he could move about the harbor and go into town without a shore pass. 50X1-HUM

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50X1-HUM

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COUNTRY USSR

REPORT

50X1-HUM

SUBJECT Ship Sightings in Ventspils

DATE OF REPORT 10 November 1959

NO. OF PAGES 1

50X1-HUM

REFERENCES

DATE OF
INFO.
PLACE &
DATE ACQ.

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE. NOTE FOREGOING EXPLANATION.

50X1-HUM

The below listed Soviet naval vessels were observed in Ventspils

50X1-HUM

1. Eleven KRONSTADT-class subchasers,

2. Five minesweepers, including one T-43-class fleet minesweeper, and eight unidentified minesweepers

50X1-HUM

3. One RIGA-class destroyer escort, one tugboat, one trawler, and one tender.

50X1-HUM

4. One landing craft, The vessel was approximately 60 meters long, had a bows-port, an anchor on the starboard side only, a twin mount on the forecastle, one smokestack abaft the bridge, four life rafts along the deck, and four life rafts along the bridge house. There was a signal mast on the bridge, but no other masts or Samson posts were observed. Current from two screws was observed.

50X1-HUM

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50X1-HUM

COUNTRY USSR

REPORT

SUBJECT Projected Oil Harbor in Ventspils DATE OF REPORT 10 November 1959

50X1-HUM

NO. OF PAGES 1

REFERENCES

DATE OF
INFO.
PLACE &
DATE ACQ

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE NOTE FOREGOING EXPLANATION

50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

[redacted] the Outer Harbor basin in Ventspils was to be dredged to a depth of 12 meters and that four oil piers were to be built over a period of seven years. The annual oil capacity would be 9 million tons. The harbor would be the only Soviet oil harbor in the Baltic Sea area.

[redacted] the harbor was to be dredged to a depth of 10 meters and that refueling would take place at sea.

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50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

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COT, No. 4

COUNTRY USSR

REPORT

SUBJECT Ship Sightings and Other Observations in Ventpils

DATE OF REPORT 3 November 1955 50X1-HUM

NO. OF PAGES

REFERENCES

DATE OF INFO.
PLACE &
DATE ACQ.

50X1-HUM

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE. NOTE FOREGOING EXPLANATION.

50X1-HUM

1. The below listed Soviet naval vessels were observed at the City Quay in Ventpils on the dates indicated: 50X1-HUM

- a. Six SASHA-class inshore minesweepers.

- b. One RIGA-class destroyer escort

- c. Ten KRONSHADT-class subchasers

50X1-HUM

- d. Two T-43-class fleet minesweepers,
Four unidentified minesweepers

- e. Three vessels resembling trawlers.

- f. Tender,

- g. Two motor torpedo boats

- h. Four vessels,

2. a naval vessel resembling a RIGA-class destroyer escort was observed traveling on a course of 270 degrees through the restricted minefield which, according to a

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50X1-HUM

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50X1-HUM

[redacted] is still intact. The vessel's number, observed from the approach buoy, [redacted]

50X1-HUM

3. A large, heavy floating pile driver was near the new row of piles on the west side of the Outer Harbor, and a dredger was at work in the same location. A larger dredger was working in the range lights farther out in the harbor.
4. From a distance, 20 to 25 military vehicles, including tanks, were observed on the southern bank [redacted]

50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

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COUNTRY USSR

REPORT

SUBJECT 1. Ship Sightings in Ventspils
2. Harbor Construction in Ventspils

DATE OF REPORT 20 October 1959

NO. OF PAGES 2

Att. No. 5

REFERENCES

DATE OF INFO.

50X1-HUM

PLACE &

50X1-HUM

DATE ACQ.

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE. NOTE FOREGOING EXPLANATION.

50X1-HUM

1. The following Soviet naval vessels were observed at the City Quay in Ventspils From east to west:

a. Two vessels, of the same size and appearance as the KRONSHADT-class subchaser.

b. Two large minesweepers 50X1-HUM

c. One submarine. (See sketch 1.)

d. One minesweeper of the same class as the minesweeper

e. Two vessels of the same class as the vessels mentioned in para. 1.a. 50X1-HUM

f. One cutter with a radome on the masthead

g. One MTB without tubes, alongside an old tender resembling a trawler, 50X1-HUM

h. Two KRONSHADT-class subchasers.

i. Besides the above-mentioned vessels, four units were observed, and one of which was an old tender 50X1-HUM

2. Two dredgers were working in the Outer Harbor (see sketch 2) 0

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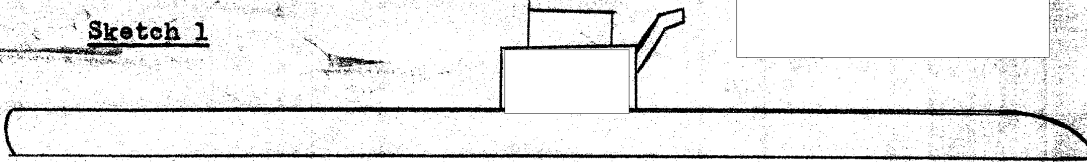
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50X1-HUM

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Sketch 1

50X1-HUM

Sketch 2

Range lights

VENTSPILS

The North Breakwater

The South Breakwater

Dredger

N

Large Dredger

Rammed piles

Danish Comments

50X1-HUM

1. [redacted] inshore minesweepers of the SASHA class.
2. [redacted] a T-43-class fleet minesweeper. [redacted] have not been observed previously, but are probably of the T-43 class.
3. Submarine [redacted] which has not been observed previously, is probably of the W class.
4. This is an MVD vessel normally observed in Ventspils.
5. These KRONSHADT-class subchasers are normally observed in Ventspils.
6. [redacted] KRONSHADT-class subchaser [redacted] which has not been observed previously, is presumably also of the KRONSHADT class.
7. Tender [redacted] has not been observed previously.

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50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

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50X1-HUM

COUNTRY USSR (Lithuanian SSR)

REPORT

SUBJECT 1. Ship Sightings in and Near
Klaipeda
2. Living Costs in Klaipeda

DATE OF REPORT 22 September 1959

NO. OF PAGES 1

REFERENCES

DATE OF
INFO.
PLACE &
DATE ACQ

50X1-HUM

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE. NOTE FOREGOING EXPLANATION.

50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

1. Four submarines and one surface vessel were observed at the break-
water of the Winter Harbor in Klaipeda but the
submarines were probably the same ones sighted here

The submarines probably were not in commission.
Except for an occasional visit by a single person, no activity was
observed on board the vessels. The surface vessel has previously
been described as a RIGA-class destroyer escort.

50X1-HUM

2. Two submarines traveling in line on the surface at an estimated
speed of 7 knots were observed on a westerly course at point
N 55-25, E 17-17. The submarines were observed
from a distance of approximately five nautical miles.
These submarines were larger
than the ones observed in Klaipeda. The conning-towers did not
have steps.

50X1-HUM

3. A shipbroker (in a uniform with insignia of 2½ stripes and square
eyes) stated that he received monthly wages of 1,100 rubles and
that he paid 75 rubles [a month] for a one-room apartment with
kitchen and 81 rubles a month in taxes. A longshoreman received a
monthly wage of 800 rubles.

4. The price of one kilo of each of the following items purchased in
Klaipeda was: Butter, 31 rubles; sugar, 13 rubles; coffee, 100 rubles. The cheapest vodka cost 28 rubles a
bottle.

50X1-HUM

Comment: 1. these sub-
marines were probably of the Q class.

50X1-HUM

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50X1-HUM

COUNTRY USSR

REPORT [REDACTED]

SUBJECT 1. Ship Sightings and Other
Observations in Ventpils
2. Vessel Inspection Procedures
in Ventpils and Klaipeda

DATE OF REPORT 20 November 1959

NO. OF PAGES 5

REFERENCES *Att. No. 7* 50X1-HUM

DATE OF
INFO.
PLACE &
DATE ACQ.

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE. NOTE FOREGOING EXPLANATION.

1. The below listed Soviet naval vessels were observed in Ventpils
on the dates indicated: 50X1-HUM 50X1-HUM

a. KRONSHADT-class subchasers, [REDACTED]

KRONSHADT-class subchasers, [REDACTED]

b. Three unidentified minesweepers and one T-43-class minesweeper,
[REDACTED] Two minesweepers,
[REDACTED]

c. Two motor torpedo boats. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] four motor torpedo boats without
tubes were observed [REDACTED]

50X1-HUM

d. One small blue motor boat was observed [REDACTED]

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50X1-HUM

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50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

- e. One tender; one vessel resembling a trawler, No. LOTS 54; one oil lighter; and one old trawler [redacted] were observed [redacted]

- f. One landing craft, [redacted]

The landing craft moved up the river and out of view [redacted] and left the harbor between 0800 and 0900 hours the same day. 50X1-HUM

- 1) The following description was given of landing craft [redacted]

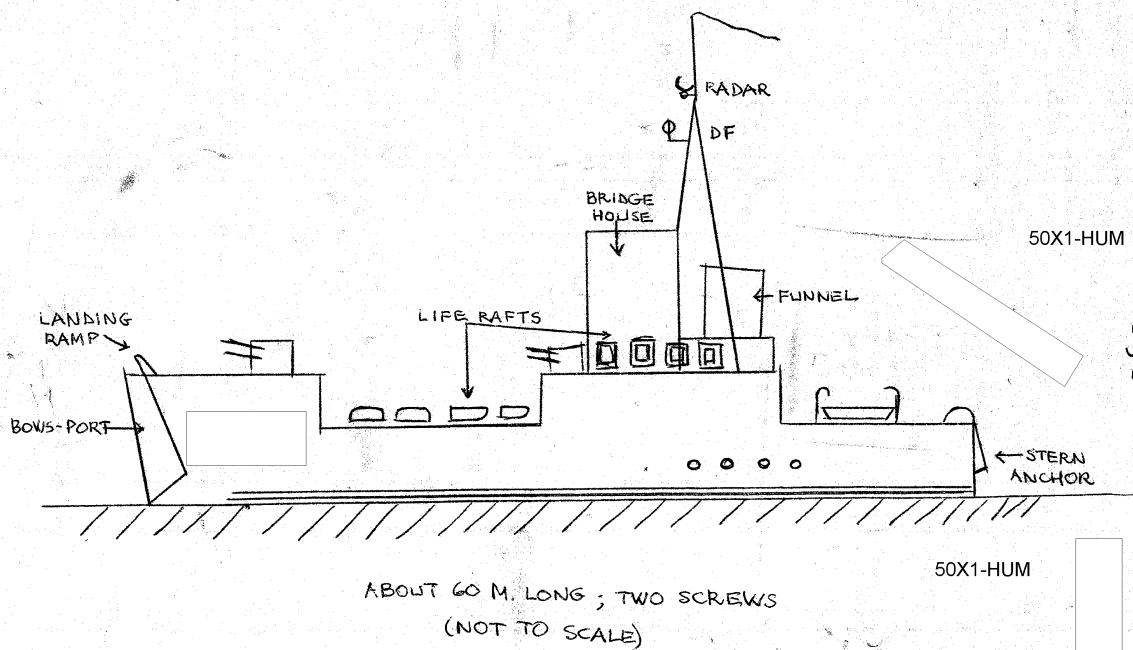
The vessel had an anchor on the starboard side and on the stern. There did not appear to be any guns. The draft forward was 31 decimeters and aft 41 decimeters. The landing craft was equipped with ordinary navigational radar. In front of the bridge house was a small Samson post with booms and fore of mid-ships was an additional Samson post with booms. The deck line at the stem appeared to angle downward and the stern was equipped with a bows-port. 50X1-HUM

- 2) The following description was given of landing craft [redacted]

The vessel was equipped with a twin mount on the forecastle and in front of the bridge house flush with the bridge deck. There were no guns abaft. Four life rafts were placed along each side of the bridge house and four life rafts were on the deck (in the well). A tripod mast with an ordinary direction finder and navigational radar was situated between the bridge house and the funnel. In the stem was a bows-port which opened "like a book." Part of a landing ramp which extended approximately one and one-half meters above deck was seen in the stem. In profile the ramp appeared to be narrow at its tip, the bottom of the ramp being flat and the topside being slightly curved. The ramp gave the impression of being solidly constructed and reinforced heavily on the underside. The reinforcements were compared to the heavy cross-ribbing used in hatches. The deck in the well seemed to have been lengthened under the bridge house through a large opening. The landing craft was supplied with a life boat on each side abaft, an anchor on the starboard side, and an anchor astern. The entire length of the vessel was equipped with a fender along the water line.

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- g. A small submarine [redacted] called at the harbor [redacted]
[redacted]
- h. An old-looking destroyer with two funnels, a flush deck, and no armament was towed into the harbor [redacted] 50X1-HUM
- i. A small patrol vessel [redacted] was observed passing the Import Quay in Ventspils [redacted] The vessel had guns on the foredeck and the quarter-deck [redacted]
2. It was observed [redacted] that a row of piling was being driven from the coast across the Outer Harbor in Ventspils. Another row of piling seemed to form a gangway for further pile driving athwart the coast. A small dredger was working in the Outer Harbor.⁹ 50X1-HUM
3. [redacted] the observation was made that a row of piling or sheet piling had been driven along the coast, and from this row, a row of sheet piling had been driven at right angles out into the basin of the Outer Harbor.⁹ 50X1-HUM 50X1-HUM 50X1-HUM
4. Twenty tracked vehicles were observed on the Export Quay [redacted] The vehicles seemed to have been at the quay for a long period. Only the bogey and track assembly of the vehicles was visible as the tops of the vehicles were enclosed in large wooden boxes [redacted]. The vehicles' track assemblies consisted of a large driving wheel on each end of a row of four smaller wheels. The 20 vehicles were still on the quay [redacted] when it was noted that some trucks had been added.¹⁰ 50X1-HUM
5. A shipload of piping was also observed at the Export Quay [redacted] The pipes were being loaded on railway cars and hauled away. The pipes were without flange or muff and were 10 to 12 meters long; the outside diameter of the piping was 1/2 to 3/4 meter and the wall thickness was 3/4 inch.¹¹ 50X1-HUM 50X1-HUM
6. The inspection procedure of a vessel entering both Ventspils and Klaipeda [redacted] was quickly accomplished. There was no search of the vessel and neither passports nor discharge books were checked. The authorities permitted shore leave until midnight, but no complaints were made if crew members stayed ashore all night.
7. Twenty oil tanks, 14 upright and 6 horizontal, were counted at the oil storage facility at the Ballast Quay in Klaipeda [redacted] A few of the tanks appeared to be new and unpainted. The facility is being enlarged. 50X1-HUM

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